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DEFENDING WINNER DIVISIDERO HEADS ACCOMPLISHED ROSTER OF NOMINEES TO 31ST RUNNING OF GRADE I, \$500,000 WOODFORD RESERVE TURF CLASSIC

Total of 63 Nominees Includes Powerhouse Female Trio of Lady Eli, Miss Temple City, Quidura (GB)

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Monday, Feb. 27, 2017) – Gunpowder Farms LLC's defending winner **Divisidero** and a powerful trio of female stars in **Lady Eli**, **Miss Temple City** and **Quidura (GB)** head a strong roster of 63 older grass specialists nominated to compete in the 31st running of the **\$500,000 Woodford Reserve Turf Classic (Grade I)** for 4-year-olds and up on the star-studded **Kentucky Derby Day** racing program on **Saturday, May 6** at **Churchill Downs**.

The 1 1/8-mile test on the Matt Winn Turf Course, which is run immediately prior to the **Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands (GI)**, annually attracts many of the nation's most accomplished turf stars. Past winners include two-time Horse of the Year **Wise Dan**, one of two horses to earn a pair of victories in the race, and Eclipse Award champions **Manila**, **Paradise Creek**, **Sky Classic** and **English Channel. Einstein (BRZ)**, a Grade I winner on both dirt and turf, won back-to-back renewals of the Woodford Reserve Turf Classic in 2008-09.

The Churchill Downs-based Divisidero, a 5-year-old son of 2005 turf champion Kitten's Joy, collected his only triumph in four 2016 starts when he held off **World Approval** to win the Woodford Reserve Turf Classic and collect the first Grade I triumph of his career. Trained by **William "Buff" Bradley**, Divisidero is unbeaten in two outings over the Churchill Downs grass course, having earlier won the 2016 American Turf (GII). The Kentucky-bred Divisidero has a career record of 4-1-3 in 11 races and has earned \$740,950.

Any of the three female stars nominated to the 2016 Woodford Reserve Turf Classic would likely be a major contender against male rivals should they appear in the starting gate on Kentucky Derby Day.

Sheep Pond Partners' Lady Eli returned from a months-long battle against the potentially-fatal hoof ailment laminitis to a three-race autumn campaign against female opponents in 2016 highlighted by a victory in the Grade I Flower Bowl at Belmont Park and close runner-up finishes in the Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Turf (GI) at Santa Anita and the Ballston Spa (GII) at Saratoga. Trained by **Chad Brown**, the 5-year-old daughter of Divine Park has a career record of 7-2-0 in nine races with earnings of \$2,169,800.

The 5-year-old Miss Temple City competed a spectacular 2016 campaign for trainer **Graham Motion** with a victory in the Matriarch (GI) at Del Mar in December. Prior to that victory she earned a pair of Grade I wins over males in the Shadwell Turf Mile and the Maker's Mark 46 Mile, both run at Keeneland. In both of those races she defeated **Tourist**, the eventual winner of the Breeders' Cup Mile (GI) at Santa Anita, a race in which Miss Temple City ran fifth. **The Club Racing LLC**, **Allen Rosenblum** and **Sagamore Farm's** daughter of Temple City has compiled a career record of 6-3-2 in 15 races with earnings of \$1,453,038.

Gestut Faerhof's Quidara (GB), a 4-year-old daughter of **Dubawi (IRE)** also trained by Motion, has three wins in four races that include last fall's Valley View (GIII) on the grass at Keeneland.

Other stars made eligible to compete in the 2017 Woodford Reserve Turf Classic include **Shadwell Stable's Almanaar (GB)**, a Brown-trained import who scored his first U.S. victory Gulfstream Park Turf Handicap (GI) in early February, and the three horses who finished immediately behind the 5-year-old gelding in that race. They are **Wertheimer and Frere's** runner-up **All Included**; **Calumet Farm, Sagamore Farm** and **Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners'** third-place finisher **War Correspondent**; and **James Covello**, Sheep Pond Partners and **Head of Plains Partners LLC's** Secretariat (GI) winner **Beach Patrol**, who finished second but was disqualified to fourth.

Other stars nominated to the Derby Day turf test include **Golden Pegasus Racing** and **Earle I Mack's Bolo**, winner of the last two runnings of Santa Anita's Arcadia (GII) for trainer **Carla Gaines**; **Terry Hamilton's Heart to Heart**, a **Brian Lynch**-trained son of English Channel who won Belmont Park's 2016 Knickerbocker (GIII) and is unbeaten in three stakes races on the grass at Churchill Downs; **Matthew Schera's Isotherm**, winner of Santa Anita's San Marcos (GII); **Wimborne Farm's Kasaqui (Arg)**, runner-up in the Arlington Million and winner of the 2016 Arlington Handicap (GIII) at Chicago's Arlington Park; **Nelson McMakin's Plueven (Fr)**, winner of Churchill Downs' Wise Dan for trainer **Phil Sims**; **St. Elias Stable** and **West Point Thoroughbreds' Ring Weekend**, winner of the Seabiscuit (GII) at Del Mar and Saratoga's Bernard Baruch (GII) in 2016 and Santa Anita's Frank F. Kilroe Mile (GI) in 2015; **Sir Dudley Digges**, the Ontario-bred winner of Canada's 2016 Queen's Plate; **Take the Stand (Arg)**, winner of Fair Grounds' Mervin Muniz Memorial (GII) in 2016; **Randall Bloch, Phil Milner, John Seiler** and **Amteitam LLC's Thatcher Street**, winner of Churchill Downs' River City Handicap (GII) for trainer **Ian Wilkes**; **Juddmonte Farms' Time Test (GB)**, a Brown-trained son of **Dubawi (Ire)** who took the Sky Bet York Stakes (Group 2) at Britain's York in 2016; and **Finish Line Racing LLC**, the **Elwood Johnston Trust** and **Taste of Victory Stables' What a View**, winner of the Kilroe Mile in 2016.

Churchill Downs-based trainer **Mike Maker** nominated 12 horses to the Woodford Reserve Turf Classic, the highest total for an individual trainer. His accomplished group of nominees includes **Skychai Racing LLC's Da Big Hoss**, winner of the Kentucky Cup Turf (GIII) at Kentucky Downs and the American St. Leger (GIII) at Arlington Park; **Three Diamonds Farm's Bigger Picture**, winner of the 2017 John B. Connelly at Sam Houston Park and the 2016 Red Smith Handicap (GIII) at Aqueduct; **Charming Kitten**, winner of the 2015 William L. McKnight (GIII) at Gulfstream Park; **Granny's Kitten**, winner of the Col. E.R. Bradley (GIII) at Fair Grounds; **Michael Hui's Greengrassofyoming**, winner of Arlington Park's Stars and Stripes (GIII); **International Star**, winner of the 2015 Louisiana Derby (GII); **Oscar Nominated**, winner of the 2016 Spiral (GIII) at Turfway Park and the Dueling Grounds Derby at Kentucky Downs; 2016 William L. McKnight (GIII) winner **Taghleeb**; and **Enterprising**, winner of last weekend's Fair Grounds Handicap (GIII).

Six of Maker's nominees race in the red and white silks of **Ken and Sarah Ramsey**, who led all owners in total nominations with six. The Ramseys own Sir Dudley Digges, Oscar Nominated, Charming Kitten, Granny's Kitten, International Star and **Keystoneforvictory**.

The Woodford Reserve Turf Classic's late nomination phase is underway and owners and trainers can nominate their horses with payment of a \$1,000 fee before that window closes on at 11:59 p.m. (all times Eastern) on **Saturday, April 15**. After that, supplemental nominations can be made with a payment of \$15,000 at the Turf Classic's time of entry on **Wednesday, May 3**. The Woodford Reserve Turf Classic is limited to 14 starters, with preference given to winners of graded turf stakes and, after that, highest earnings in stakes races on turf in 2016-17.

A total of 78 horses were nominated to the Turf Classic in 2016, a number that included five late nominees.

Churchill Downs, the world's most legendary racetrack, has conducted Thoroughbred racing and presented America's greatest race, the Kentucky Derby, continuously since 1875. Located in Louisville, the flagship racetrack of Churchill Downs Incorporated (NASDAQ: CHDN) offers year-round simulcast wagering at the historic track. Churchill Downs will conduct the 143rd running of the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands on May 6, 2017. The track's 2017 Spring Meet is scheduled for April 29-June 30. Churchill Downs has hosted the Breeders' Cup World Championships eight times and the event will return to the track on Nov. 2-3, 2018. Information is available at www.ChurchillDowns.com.

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